

From: Paul J Richards
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please tally my vote in favor of not imposing any penalties on Microsoft or its creator, Bill Gates. An American hero who has the talent and ability and drive to create a better mousetrap should be rewarded, not punished. Our present day technological capabilities with personal computers couldn't exist without the products developed and marketed by Microsoft. Whatever rewards Mr. Gates has garnered from his contributions to our way of life are well earned. On his way to improving our lives, he has created untold wealth for untold thousands of others including the very individuals who are actively trying to promote the suppression of Microsoft and its superior products. Our nation has no business trying to downgrade the production of capable companies for the benefit of competitors who don't have the talent to do equally well. We need every bit of forward progress that people of ability can provide. Punishing Microsoft and Bill Gates is the equivalent of jailing Columbus, gagging Newton and Copernicus, burning Galileo's books or prohibiting Einstein from publishing and teaching. This country is great because of people like Bill Gates and our reaction should encourage more like him and not grind them down. Should we prohibit Microsoft from tying Internet Explorer into Windows? Should we prohibit a furniture maker from putting a fourth leg on a chair because his competitors don't know how to make a good fourth leg? Let Microsoft go; turn it loose and America will be better for it. When the competitors develop truly advanced innovations, Microsoft will not be able to hold them back unless our own government contributes to their suppression. Thank you.
